

HCS SB 500 -- AGRICULTURE

SPONSOR: Riddle (Houghton)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 17 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Agriculture by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill changes the laws regarding agriculture.

MISSOURI QUALIFIED FUEL ETHANOL PRODUCER INCENTIVE FUND (Section 142.029, RSMo)

The bill extends the expiration date of the provisions regarding the Missouri Qualified Fuel Ethanol Producer Incentive Fund from December 31, 2015, to December 31, 2019.

INCOME TAX EXEMPTION FOR AGRICULTURAL DISASTERS (Section 143.121)

The bill authorizes an income tax exemption for all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, for the amount of any income received as payment from any program which compensates agricultural producers who have suffered a loss as a result of a disaster or emergency.

HONEY (Section 261.241)

Currently, sellers of jams, jellies, and honey whose annual sales are \$30,000 or less per location are exempt from the requirement to maintain separate facilities for the manufacture of the items. The bill removes jams and jellies from this requirement and increases the annual sales level to \$50,000 before a seller is required to maintain separate facilities for the bottling of honey.

Currently, sellers of honey are exempt from all remaining health standards and regulations for the manufacture of honey if they meet certain requirements. The bill exempts sellers of honey from health standards and regulations for the bottling of honey if they meet certain requirements, including that the honey be bottled in the location of the person harvesting the honey. The bill removes the requirement to display a placard in a prominent location during the sale of honey that states that the product has not been inspected by the Department of Health and Senior Services.

SLAUGHTER OF CAPTIVE CERVIDS (Section 265.475)

The bill allows any commercial slaughter plant or meat processor that has been inspected by the Missouri Department of Agriculture or the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to slaughter and

process captive cervids for human consumption if the captive cervids are from a herd that participates in a USDA herd certification program. The sale of captive cervid meat cannot be restricted or prohibited. A licensed hunting preserve or deer breeder must be allowed to slaughter and process any captive cervids owned by the preserve or breeder at a facility inspected by the department or the USDA at any time, but the department may establish rules and regulations relating to the slaughter and processing of captive cervids.

#### INSPECTION OF MOTOR FUELS (Section 414.082)

Currently, the fee for the inspection of certain motor fuels must be between 1.5 cents and 2.5 cents per barrel. The bill changes the per barrel fee to no more than 4 cents from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2020, and no more than 5 cents after January 1, 2021, and thereafter.

#### ANIMAL TRESPASS (Sections 578.005 - 578.040)

Currently, a person is guilty of the crime of animal trespass if he or she having ownership of an animal knowingly fails to provide adequate control for a period of 12 hours or more. The bill specifies that a person commits the offense of animal or livestock trespass if he or she having ownership or custody of an animal knowingly fails to provide adequate control and the animal trespasses onto another person's property or having ownership or custody of livestock knowingly fails to provide adequate control of the livestock for a period of 12 hours or more and the livestock trespasses onto another person's property. The bill removes the specified maximum fines that may be charged for the offenses of animal or livestock trespass. The bill repeals a provision specifying that reasonable costs incurred for the care and maintenance of trespassing animals may not be waived.

**PROPONENTS:** Supporters say that the bill reduces undue burdens on people who bottle honey in their homes. Honey does not need to be altered between the hive and being bottled and therefore, does not need a commercial kitchen to be processed.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Riddle; Michael McMillen, Missouri State Beekeepers' Association; and Eugene Makovec, Missouri State Beekeepers' Association.

**OPPONENTS:** There was no opposition voiced to the committee.